

DIA

The bay of Naples is the most delightful one that I ever saw: it lies in almost a round figure of about thirty miles in the diameter.

Addison's Remarks on Italy.
DIAMETRAL, *adj.* [from *diameter*.] Describing the diameter; relating to the diameter.

DIAMETRICALLY, *adv.* [from *diameter*.] According to the direction of a diameter.

Christian piety is, beyond all other things, *diametrically* opposed to profaneness and impiety of actions.

Hammond.
DIAMETRICAL, *adj.* [from *diameter*.] 1. Describing a diameter.

2. Observing the direction of a diameter.

The sin of calumny is set in a most *diametrical* opposition to the evangelical precept of loving our neighbours as ourselves.

Government of the Tongue, f. v.
DIAMETRICALLY, *adv.* [from *diametrical*.] In a diametrical direction.

He persuaded the king to consent to what was *diametrically* against his conscience and his honour, and, in truth, his security.

When it is thus intercepted in its passage, the vapour, which cannot penetrate the stratum *diametrically*, glides along the lower surface of it, permeating the horizontal interval, which is betwixt the said dense stratum and that which lies underneath it.

Woodward.
DIAMOND, *n. f.* [*diamant*, French; *adamas*, Latin.]

The diamond, the most valuable and hardest of all the gems, is, when pure, perfectly clear and pellucid as the purest water; and is eminently distinguished from all other substances by its vivid splendour, and the brightness of its reflexions. It is extremely various in shape and size, being found in the greatest quantity very small, and the larger ones extremely seldom met with. The largest ever known is that in the possession of the great Mogul, which weighs two hundred and seventy-nine carats, and is computed to be worth seven hundred and seventy-nine thousand two hundred and forty-four pounds. The diamond bears the force of the strongest fires, except the concentrated solar rays, without hurt; and even that infinitely hercet of all fires does it no injury, unless directed to its weaker parts. It bears a glass-house fire for many days, and, if taken carefully out, and suffered to cool by degrees, is found as bright and beautiful as before; but if taken hastily out, it will sometimes crack, and even split into two or three pieces. The places where we have diamonds are the East Indies and the Bravils; and though they are usually found clear and colourless, yet they are sometimes slightly tinged with the colours of the other gems, by the mixture of some metalline particles.

Hill on Fossils.
This diamond was my mother's: take it, heart;

But keep it 'till you woo another wife.

Shakep. Cymbeline.

Give me the ring of mine you had at dinner;

Or, for the diamond, the chain you promised.

Shakep. I see how thine eye would emulate the diamond: thou hast the right arched bent of the brow.

Shak. Mer. Wives of Windsor.

The diamond is preferable and vastly superior to all others in lustre and beauty; as also in hardness, which renders it more durable and lasting, and therefore much more valuable, than any other stone.

Woodward's Metall. Foss.

The diamond is by mighty monarchs worn,

Fair as the star that utters in the morn.

Blackm. Creation.

The lively diamond drinks thy purest rays,

Collected light, compact.

Thomson's Summer, l. 140.

DIAPASE, *n. f.* [*δια παση*.] A chord including all tones. The old word for *diapason*. See **DIAPASON**.

And 'twixt them both a quadrant was the base,

Proportion'd equally by seven and nine;

Nine was the circle set in heaven's place,

All which compacted made a good *diapase*.

Fairy Queen.

The sweet numbers and melodious measures,

With which I wont the winged words to tie,

And make a tuneful *diapase* of pleasures,

Now being let to run at liberty.

Spenser.

DIAPASON, *n. f.* [*δια παση*.]

Diapason denotes a chord which includes all tones: it is the same with that we call an eighth, or an octave; because there are but seven tones or notes, and then the eighth is the same again with the first.

Harris.

It discovereth the true coincidence of sounds into *diapasons*, which is the return of the same found.

Bacon's Nat. History.

Harsh din

Broke the fair musick that all creatures made

To their great Lord, whose love their motion sway'd

In perfect *diapason*, whilst they stood

In first obedience, and their state of good.

Milton.

Many a sweet rise, many as sweet a fall,

A full-mouth *diapason* swallows all.

Cresshaw.

From harmony, from heav'nly harmony,

This universal frame began:

From harmony to harmony

Through all the compass of the notes it ran,

The *diapason* closing full in man.

Dryden.

DIA

DIAPER, *n. f.* [*diapre*, French, of uncertain etymology.] 1. Linen cloth woven in flowers, and other figures.

Not any damsel, which her vaunteth most

In skilful knitting of soft filken twine;

Nor any weaver, which his work doth boast

In *diaper*, in damask, or in lynes,

Might in their diverse cunning ever dare

With this so curious net-work to compare.

Spenser.

2. A napkin; a towel.

Let one attend him with a silver bason

Full of rose-water, and bestrew'd with flowers;

Another bear the ewer, a third a *diaper*.

Shakespeare.

To **DIAPER**, *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To variegate; to diversify; to flower.

For fear the stones her tender foot should wrong,

The ground he strew'd with flowers all along,

And *diaper'd* like the discoloured mead.

Spenser.

Flora useth to cloath our grand-dame earth with a new

livery, *diaper'd* with various flowers, and chequered with de-

lightful objects.

Howell's Vocal Treasury.

2. To draw flowers upon cloaths.

If you *diaper* upon folds, let your work be broken, and

taken, as it were, by the half; for reason tells you, that your

fold must cover somewhat unseen.

Eacham on Drapery.

DIAPHANEITY, *n. f.* [from *diaphanos*.] Transparency; pel-

lucidity; power of transmitting light.

Because the outward coat of the eye ought to be pellucid,

to transmit the light, which, if the eyes should always stand

open, would be apt to grow dry and shrink, and lose their

diaphaneity; therefore are the eyelids so contrived as often to

wink, that so they may, as it were, glaze and varnish them

over with the moisture they contain.

Ray on the Creation.

DIAPHANICK, *adj.* [*διαφανος*.] Transparent; pellucid;

having the power to transmit light.

Air is an element superior, and lighter than water,

through whose vast, open, subtle, *diaphanick*, or transparent

body, the light, afterwards created, easily transpired.

Ray on the Creation.

DIAPHANOUS, *adj.* [*διαφανος*.] Transparent; clear;

translucent; pellucid; capable to transmit light.

Aristotle calleth light a quality inherent, or clearing to a

diaphanous body.

Ray on the Creation.

When he had taken off the insect, he found in the leaf

very little and *diaphanous* eggs, exactly like to those which yet

remained in the tubes of the fly's womb.

Ray on the Creation.

DIAPHORETICK, *adj.* [*διαφορητικος*.] Sudorific; promoting a

diaphoresis or perspiration; causing sweat.

Diaphoreticks, or promoters of perspiration, help the organs

of digestion, because the attenuation of the aliment make it

perspirable.

Arbuthnot on Aliments.

A *diaphoretick* medicine, or a sudorific, is something that

will provoke sweating.

Watts.

DIAPHRAGM, *n. f.* [*διαφραγμα*.]

1. The midriff which divides the upper cavity of the body from

the lower.

2. Any division or partition which divides a hollow body.

It consists of a fasciculus of bodies, round, about one sixth

of an inch in diameter, hollow, and parted into numerous cells

by means of *diaphragms*, thick set throughout the whole length

of the body.

Woodward on Fossils.

DIARRHOEA, *n. f.* [*διαρροια*.] A flux of the bowels, whereby

a person frequently goes to stool, and is cured either by

purging off the cause, or restraining the bowels.

Quincy.

During his *diarrhoea* I healed up the fontanelles.

Wifeman.

DIARRHOETICK, *adj.* [from *diarrhoea*.] Promoting the flux

of the bowels; solutive; purgative.

Millet is *diarrhetick*, cleansing, and useful in diseases of

the kidneys.

Arbuthnot on Aliments.

DIARY, *n. f.* [*diarium*, Latin.] An account of the trans-

actions, accidents, and observations of every day; a journal.

In sea-voyages, where there is nothing to be seen but sky

and sea, men make *diaries*; but in land-travel, wherein so

much is to be observed, they omit it.

Bacon, Essay 19.

I go on in my intended *diary*.

Tatler, No. 60.

DIASTOLE, *n. f.* [*διαστολη*.]

1. A figure in rhetoric, by which a short syllable is made long.

2. The dilation of the heart.

The systole seems to resemble the forcible bending of a

spring, and the *diastole* its flying out again to its natural state.

Ray on the Creation.

DIASTYLE, [*δια and στυλη*, a pillar.] A sort of edifice where

the pillars stand at such a distance from one another, that

three diameters of their thickness are allowed for intercolumn-

iation.

Harris.

DIATESERON, *n. f.* [of *δια* and *τεσσαρες*, four.] An inter-

val in musick, composed of one greater tone, one lesser,

and one greater semi-tone; its proportion being as four to

three. It is called, in musical composition, a perfect fourth.

Harris.

DIATONICK, [of *διατονικος*.] The ordinary sort of musick

which proceeds by different tones, either in ascending or

descending.

DIC

descending. It contains only the two greater and lesser tones, and the greater semi-tone.

Harris.
DIASENTICK TONE, [of *δια* and *σεντικος*.] In the ancient Greek

musick, disjoined two fourths, one on each side of it; and

which being joined to either, made a fifth. This is, in our

musick, from A to B.

They allowed to this *diasentick* tone, which is our La, Mi,

the proportion of nine to eight, as being the unalterable dif-

ference of the fifth and fourth h.

Harris.

DIDDLE, *n. f.* [from *diffel*, Dutch, a sharp point, *Skinner*;

from *dabbie*, *Junius*.] A small spade; a pointed instrument

with which the gardeners make holes for planting.

DICACITY, *n. f.* [*dicacitas*, Lat.] Pertness; faulchness.

DiG.

DIBSTONE, *n. f.* A little stone which children throw at an-

other stone.

I have seen little girls exercise whole hours together, and

take abundance of pains to be expert at *dibstones*, as they call

it.

Locke.

DICE, *n. f.* The plural of *die*. See **DIE**.

It is above a hundred to one against any particular throw, that

you do not cast any given set of faces with four cubical *dice*;

because there are so many several combinations of the six faces

of four *dice*: now, after you have cast all the trials but one,

it is still as much odds at the last remaining time, as it was at

the first.

Bentley's Sermons.

To **DICE**, *v. n.* [from the noun.] To game with dice.

I was as virtuously given as a gentleman need to be; vir-

tuous enough; swore little; *diced* not above seven times a

week; went to a bawdy-house not above once in a quarter

of an hour.

Shakespeare's Henry IV. p. i.

DICE-BOX, *n. f.* [*dice* and *box*.] The box from which the dice

are thrown.

What would you say, should you see the sparkler shaking

her elbow for a whole night together, and thumping the table

with a *dice-box*?

Addison's Guardian, No. 120.

DICER, *n. f.* [from *dice*.] A player at dice; a gamester.

They make marriage vows

As false as *dicers* oaths.

Shakespeare's Hamlet.

DICEN, *adj.* This word seems corrupted from *dit* for *do* it.

Rich men sin, and I eat root:

Much good *dicen* thy good heart, Apemantus.

Shakep. Timon.

DICHOTOMY, *n. f.* [*διχοτομία*.] Distribution of ideas by

pairs.

Some persons have disturbed the order of nature, and abused

their readers by an affectation of *dichotomies*, trichotomies,

sevens, twelves, &c. Let the nature of the subject, considered

together with the design which you have in view, always de-

termine the number of parts into which you divide it.

Watts.

DICKENS, A kind of adverbial exclamation, importing, as it

seems, much the same with the *devil*; but I know not whence

derived.

Where had you this pretty weathercock?

—I cannot tell what the *dickens* his name is my husband had

him of.

Shakep. Merry Wives of Windsor.

What a *dickens* does he mean by a trivial sum?

But han't you found it, fir?

C